

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

I'm respectfully writing to state my plea to support the proposal of Cyren Call Communications to reallocate 30 MHz of 700 MHz spectrum for the use of a fully interoperable, scalable, public safety system that is funded through a unique public/private partnership.

My personal involvement with the lack of interoperability was never more defined than by the events that occurred on September 11, 2001 when the world stopped turning for a moment in time. My best friend, Kevin Hannaford, went to work that morning to Cantor Fitzgerald on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center, after kissing his pregnant wife Eileen and his son, Patrick, goodbye as he did each morning. Regrettably, that was the last contact they had with him.

We all know about the events that occurred that morning and throughout the day, but none were more impactful than lack of communication to our first responders in the command center. Access to a dynamic, reliable, interoperable communications system that supported our first responders could have saved hundreds of lives. The systems were jammed, blocked, and overloaded with capacity restraints largely due to the spectrum usage being analog and the sheer volume on the digital system.

I have had discussions with some of the experts regarding the issue. Specifically James Lee Witt, and he summarized that one of our major vulnerabilities as a nation and a society is our inability to communicate in times of crisis. An interoperable solution would fill this void. I've heard Rudolph Giuliani profess that if members of his command post, in particular Ritchie Sheirer, could have communicated with the forces they would have been able to evacuate many of the first responders and save many lives of citizens, fire fighters and police officers.

So where are we today? The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) doesn't have an interoperable solution that's scalable in times of emergency. We don't have the ability to patch together first responders with either the National Guard or military forces should we need a peace keeping operation on United States' soil. (i.e., Hurricane Katrina). Will we continue to be complacent over the next five years as we've done the previous five years and wait for another incident to point our fingers again or will we support a proposal that MAKES SENSE?!

The public is at risk and the opponents of the Cyren Call proposed modification for the 700 MHz spectrum simply look at this as a greedy opportunity to grab the spectrum for their further network build out by eliminating a potential competitor when they know perfectly well that there is spectrum in other bands that would complement their existing networks. Are we as a society so capitalistic in the free market that we support purely business and commercial interests and neglect the responsibilities that the Government has to defend our ground and protect our civilians?

I urge you to consider the long term implications of not supporting this proposal. Will those that oppose the proposal be there for the widows and family members that will lose again? Who will ultimately own responsibility for failure to communicate and save lives?

Support public safety and our nations citizens by supporting the proposal that Cyren Call has put forth and lets all sleep better knowing we did right by those first responders, widow, and families, and that we have LEARNED from our past mistakes.

Sincerely,

Duffin D. Newman